

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 18-20, 22, 24, 26, 35-37, 41, 43, 45, 46, 48 and 60 are amended by the present amendment, and the present amendment cancels Claims 10-17, 27-34, 45, and 61-74.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 18, 19, 22, 35, 36 and 39 were rejected as being anticipated by Yasukawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,084) and Claims 3-9, 20-21, 23-26, 37, 38, 40-48 and Claims 49-60 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

In reviewing the present claims, Applicants determined that the combination of the steps of "measuring a far field pattern (FFP)", and "positioning at least one optical component based on the FFP" should be included in a separate independent claim. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to include these two steps. Adequate support is found in original Claim 2, although changing the term "detecting" to --measuring--. Each of the other claims has been amended to reflect this change to Claim 1 in a consistent fashion. For example, independent Claim 18, a system claim, is directed to a means for measuring a far field pattern (FFP), as well as a means for positioning said at least one optical component based on said FFP.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 2, 18, 19, 22, 35, 36 and 39, as amended, patentably define over Yasukawa. Moreover, the steps of measuring the far field pattern and positioning the at least one optical component based on the far field pattern are steps that are not believed to be contained in Yasukawa. As one indication that these features are believed to be absent from Yasukawa is the indication that Claim 49 is allowable. As these features are also contained in Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by independent Claims 1, 18 and 35, as amended, also patentably defines over the asserted prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-9, 18-26, 36-44 and 45-60, as amended, is patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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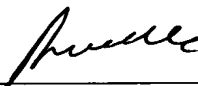


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